



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 81

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5408

House of Representatives, March 20, 2002

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. GIANNAROS of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16-49e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) As used in this section "identification" means a Social Security
4 number, the number of an identity card issued pursuant to section 1-
5 1h, as amended, the number of a motor vehicle operator's license
6 issued pursuant to section 14-36, [or any other means of identification
7 approved by the Department of Public Utility Control] a valid passport
8 issued by the United States or a foreign government, a resident alien
9 card or an alien registration card issued by the United States
10 Immigration and Naturalization Service, or any other valid forms of
11 identification issued by the federal government or a state or municipal
12 government. A public service company, as defined in section 16-1, as

13 amended, may request a person opening an account with the company
 14 to provide the company with two forms of identification, one of which
 15 contains a picture of the person, at the time of opening the account. If a
 16 person opening an account fails to provide the requested
 17 identification, the public service company shall open an account for
 18 such person and allow fifteen days for such person to provide the
 19 company with identification. If such person fails to provide the
 20 required identification within fifteen days, the public service company
 21 may terminate service to such person.

22 (b) A telecommunications company that is certified to provide
 23 telecommunications service pursuant to section 16-247g may not
 24 require a prospective residential customer to provide identification as
 25 a condition of providing telecommunications service, except to the
 26 extent that a telephone company is permitted pursuant to subsection
 27 (a) of this section.

28 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude a company
 29 from accepting additional forms of identification, provided the
 30 company accepts the forms of identification specified in subsection (a)
 31 of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

ET

Joint Favorable Subst.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill changes the forms of identification required of an individual that would be acceptable by a public service company for the opening of an account and approved by the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). It has no fiscal impact on the DPUC.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5408

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION
REQUIRED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows utilities regulated by the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to demand two forms of identification rather than one, when a person opens an account. It allows the utility to demand that one of the forms of identification have a photograph. Under current law, identification means the number on a Social Security card or drivers license or non-drivers identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and other forms of DPUC-approved identification. The bill expands the acceptable forms of identification to include (1) valid U.S. and foreign passports; (2) resident alien or alien registration cards issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and (3) other valid forms of identification issued by a municipal, state, or federal government. On the other hand, the bill eliminates other DPUC-approved forms of identification as an acceptable alternative. By law, if the person does not have acceptable identification, the utility must still open the account, but can terminate service if the person does not provide identification within 15 days.

The bill prohibits DPUC-certified telecommunications companies, such as long-distance carriers, from demanding identification from prospective residential service customers other than as described above. The companies are not required to provide service if the person does not provide identification.

The bill does not bar utilities or telecommunications companies from accepting other forms of identification, so long as they accept the forms described above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0